I'm human

# Information about outdoor game football

## Outdoor games information.  Facts about outdoor games.  Information about the game football.  Is football an outdoor game.

Football family includes various team sports involving kicking a ball to score goals. Each sport has its unique rules but shares common origins and are referred to as "football codes". The most popular form of football varies depending on the region, with association football being widely recognized globally. Other forms include Australian rules football, Gaelic football, gridiron football (American, arena, or Canadian), International rules football, rugby league football, and rugby union football. kickin' games like socccer and gaelic footy where the ball is mostly moved with feet and hands are used very little. Some common rules among these sports include:[11] * Two teams usually have between 11 to 18 players; some variations with fewer players (five or more per team) are also popular.[12] * A clearly definied area to play the game. * Scoring goals by movin' the ball to the opposing team's end of the field and puttin' it into a goal area. * Players usin' only their bodies to move the ball, no extra equipment like bats or sticks. Common skills among these sports include passin', tacklin', avoidin' tackles, catchin', and kickin'. Most codes have rules restrictin' players from bein' offside, and goals must be scored by puttin' the ball under or over a crossbar between the goalposts. There are two theories about where the word "football" comes from: one says it's from kickin' a ball with feet, while the other claims it's from medieval European games played on foot.[13][14] The origins of football can be traced back to ancient civilizations, with FIFA recognizing cuju as the earliest form of the game. In Japan, kemari was played from around 600 AD, involving a ball kicked among players in a circle, while the Silk Road facilitated the spread of the game across Asia and Europe. The Romans, meanwhile, played harpastum, a game that appears to have been adapted from a Greek team sport. Evidence suggests that these ancient games shared similarities with modern-day football, including the use of feet and balls. Ancient texts describe games such as episkyros, which was described by Cicero as an early form of football. The history of ball games is rich and varied, with examples of indigenous peoples playing traditional games in different parts of the world. For example, Inuit players in Greenland played Aqsaqtuk, a game that involved kicking a ball through each other team's line, while Native Americans in Jamestown, Virginia, played Pahsaheman. The ancient Mesoamericans also played with rubber balls, providing further evidence of the long history of football-like games. Modern versions of ball games have evolved over time and show similarities with sports such as basketball, volleyball, and Australian rules football. However, no direct links between these modern games and ancient forms of football have been established. Some indigenous tribes in North America, including the Iroquois Confederation, played a game using net racquets to throw and catch a small ball. Meanwhile, on the Australian continent, tribes such as the Djab Wurrung people played kicking and catching games with stuffed balls, which were later generalised as Marn Grook. Historical accounts of these games exist, including an anecdote from Robert Brough-Smyth's 1878 book, describing a game played by Aboriginal people in Victoria, Australia. Some historians believe that Marn Grook may have influenced the development of Australian rules football. In New Zealand, the Māori played a game called Kī-o-rahi, involving teams of seven players on a circular field with zones and points scoring targets. These games are believed to be ancient, but modern football codes appear to originate from western Europe, particularly England. The earliest known descriptions of ball games come from Central Asia, where the Turks played a game called tepuk in which people tried to attack each other's castles by kicking a ball made of sheep leather. Similar games existed throughout history, including ancient Greek and Chinese versions, such as the balancing of a ball on one's thigh. Medieval Europe saw annual Shrovetide football matches become extremely popular. The history of ball games dates back to the 9th century in Britain. The Historia Brittonum, attributed to Nennius, mentions "a party of boys playing at ball". In northern France, a similar game called La Soule or Choule emerged in the 12th century, where players propelled the ball with hands, feet, and sticks. In England, early forms of football, often referred to as "mob football", involved large numbers of players from towns or neighboring villages. The objective was to move an inflated animal's bladder to a specific location, such as an opponent's church, during religious festivals like Shrovetide, Christmas, or Easter. William FitzStephen described the game in 1174-1183, noting that London youths played ball games after lunch on Shrove Tuesday. Older references to "ball play" or "playing at ball" suggest that early games may not have involved kicking a ball. A 1280 reference from Ulgham, Northumberland, mentions Henry playing at ball and running into David. Football was also played in Ireland by the 14th century, with documented matches taking place in Newcastle, County Down. In the 14th century, football emerged as a popular game in England. According to records from 1321, an incident occurred during a match at Shouldham, Norfolk, where a player's friend accidentally collided with him while trying to catch the ball. Fast-forwarding to 1314, Nicholas de Farndone, Lord Mayor of London, issued a decree prohibiting football due to its chaotic nature and potential for causing harm. The earliest written reference to football dates back to this period, translated from French as: "Forasmuch as there is great noise in the city caused by hustling over large foot balls... we command and forbid on behalf of the king, on pain of imprisonment, such game to be used in the city in the future." This decree highlights concerns about the game's potential for causing trouble. In 1363, King Edward III of England issued a proclamation banning various forms of recreation, including football. The document mentions "football" as a distinct entity from other ball games that involved different body parts. The term "football" also appeared in Scotland during the 15th century, with evidence of schoolboys playing the game in Aberdeen around 1533. This early reference is significant for its possible implication of passing the ball between teammates. An intriguing phrase from this era translates to "strike it here" or "repercute pilam," which might hint at striking the ball between team members. The term "goal" likely referred to the pillar-like structures found in ancient Roman chariot racing courses. Another 15th-century reference mentions handling the ball and a desire to get possession of it before an opponent does. One sentence even suggests "throwing yourself against him," which could indicate that players were allowed to physically interact with each other during the game. King Henry IV of England also left behind a proclamation from 1409, which contains one of the earliest documented uses of the English term "football." Nottinghamshire is where we find the first description of a "kicking game" and dribbling. The text describes how young men play this game in country sports, kicking a huge ball along the ground with their feet instead of throwing it up in the air or using their hands. It's noted that they kick the ball in opposite directions, creating boundaries on the playing field as the game begins. The mention of football pitches and balls dates back to medieval times. In 1486, Dame Juliana Berners wrote about a "rounde instrument" used for foot play, which translates to 'pila pedalis' in Latin. This is essentially referring to a ball rather than a game. Interestingly, a pair of football boots were ordered by King Henry VIII in 1526. Women playing football was first described by Sir Philip Sidney in one of his poems from 1580, where he says that women can play the game with their skirts tucked up high and girls at foot-ball. The first references to goals are found in Cornish hurling, with John Norden mentioning them in 1584 and Richard Carew doing so in 1602. Carew even explains how goals were made by pitching two bushes into the ground. In the late 16th century, there's a mention of goalkeepers and passing the ball between players for the first time. The phrase "I'll play a gole at camp-ball" from John Day's play in 1600 is one of the earliest direct references to scoring a goal. Florence's aristocrats engaged in a violent version of football during Epiphany and Lent, known as "calcio storico." The game allowed punching, shoulder charging, and kicking opponents, with blows below the belt permitted. This early form of football was said to have originated from military training exercises. Count Giovanni de' Bardi di Vernio wrote the first recorded rules for calcio in 1580, which remains one of the earliest documented codes for any football game. The sport declined after January 1739 and wasn't revived until May 1930. Attempts to ban football have been widespread throughout history. In England alone, over 30 laws were passed between 1314 and 1667 to restrict or prohibit the game. Women faced similar bans at English and Scottish Football League grounds in 1921, with restrictions lifted only in the 1970s. Female footballers continue to face challenges in some parts of the world. American football also faced pressures to ban the sport in the 19th century due to its violent nature, although it eventually evolved into a more rugby-style game. In 1905, there were calls to ban American football in the U.S., leading to significant rule changes under President Theodore Roosevelt that transformed the sport. The English public schools played a pivotal role in shaping modern football codes by transforming the "mob" form of football into an organized team sport. Football's early history was shaped by those who attended schools where it was played, including teachers, students, and former students. The game evolved from traditional forms of football into organized team sports at English public schools. One of the earliest recorded references to football was in William Herman's Latin textbook Vulgaria in 1519, which included a phrase "We wyll playe with a ball full of wynde". Richard Mulcaster, who studied at Eton College and later became headmaster at other schools, is considered the greatest advocate for organized team football in the 16th century. His writings described teams, positions, referees, coaches, and even evolved from violent forms of traditional football to one that emphasized leg strength. The origins of football can be traced back to the early 19th century when public schools in England began to codify the game. One notable figure who contributed significantly to the development of football is Charles Booth, who created a diagram illustrating a football field and discussed tactics such as leaving key players to guard the goal. He also described a "law" that prohibits striking an opponent's leg higher than the ball. Initially, English public schools were responsible for establishing the rules of the game, with the first offside laws being introduced in the late 18th century. However, these early rules varied across different schools and were not standardized until later. The earliest known codes were those of Eton in 1815 and Aldenham in 1825. At the time, most working-class people in Britain had little time for recreation, and organized football games were seen as a way to encourage competitiveness and keep youths fit among public school boys. Each school drafted its own rules, which often favored either carrying the ball or kicking and dribbling. This division into two camps was largely driven by the circumstances in which the games were played. The history of rugby football began to take shape in the early 19th century. At that time, schools like Charterhouse and Westminster had limited play areas, forcing students to play their ball game within school cloisters. This made it difficult for them to adopt rougher running games. Rugby School gained fame after a claim emerged that rugby football was invented there in 1823. However, most sports historians dismiss this version as apocryphal. According to legend, William Webb Ellis, a Rugby School student, initiated the distinctive feature of rugby by picking up the ball and running with it. This act is often credited as the start of rugby football, but evidence supporting its occurrence is scarce. Most historians believe that the story about Webb Ellis handling the ball as a "crime" is also apocryphal. At the time, handling the ball was not only allowed but sometimes required. The rule Webb Ellis supposedly broke was actually about running forward with the ball, which was against the rules of his time. Players were only permitted to kick the ball forward or retreat backwards. The boom in rail transport in Britain during the 1840s made inter-school competitions possible. However, due to the varying rules among schools, matches often had to be divided into two halves, with one half played according to the host school's rules and the other half by the visiting school's rules. Modern football codes were formulated during the mid-to-late 19th century. This was largely driven by the patenting of the world's first lawnmower in 1830, which enabled the preparation of modern playing fields. Apart from rugby football, these public school codes saw limited play beyond their respective schools' grounds. Public schools in the UK dominated sports until a change in laws freed up time for working-class kids to play. Before 1850, children worked long hours and only got short breaks, but later changes let them have more free time. This meant they could join in on various forms of football, which were popular among school teams by then. The first matches between schools date back to the early 1800s. In 1834, Eton School faced off against Harrow School, and by the 1840s, other teams like Old Rugbeians and Old Salopians started competing. These public school teams played each other regularly, with some of their first matches being recorded in the mid-1800s. However, football wasn't a single entity yet; different forms of it were evolving across various clubs. The oldest surviving association football club is Sheffield F.C., founded in 1857. Another significant point about early football was its rules; the first written code for football emerged from Rugby school's efforts to formalize their own game in 1845. This period marked a crucial time in the development of modern football, with clubs and schools competing and creating new rules as they went along. One notable example is "The Foot-Ball Club" based in Edinburgh, which forbade tripping but allowed physical contact while playing the ball. The evolution of these early clubs and rules eventually led to the spread of various forms of football across different parts of the UK. Known matches involving non-public school clubs or institutions include: - 13 February 1856: Charterhouse School v St Bartholemew's Hospital. - 7 November 1856: Bedford Grammar School v Bedford Town Gentlemen. - 13 December 1856: Sunbury Military College v Littleton Gentlemen. - December 1857: Edinburgh University v Edinburgh Academical Club. - 24 November 1858: Westminster School v Dingley Dell Club. - 12 May 1859: Tavistock School v Princetown School. - 5 November 1859: Eton School v Oxford University. - 22 February 1860: Charterhouse School v Dingley Dell Club. - 21 July 1860: Melbourne v Richmond. - 17 December 1860: 58th Regiment v Sheffield. - 26 December 1860: Sheffield v Hallam. One of the longest running football fixtures is the Cordner-Eggleston Cup, played between Melbourne Grammar School and Scotch College, Melbourne every year since 1858. The first football trophy tournament was the Caledonian Challenge Cup, donated by the Royal Caledonian Society of Melbourne, played in 1861 under the Melbourne Rules. The oldest football league is a rugby football competition, the United Hospitals Challenge Cup (1874), while the oldest rugby trophy is the Yorkshire Cup, contested since 1878. The South Australian Football Association (30 April 1877) is the oldest surviving Australian rules football competition. The oldest surviving soccer trophy is the Youdan Cup (1867) and the oldest national football competition is the English FA Cup (1871). The Football League (1888) is recognised as the longest running association football league. The history of football began with inflated pig's bladders and leather coverings. However, in 1851, Richard Lindon and William Gilbert showcased round and oval-shaped balls at the Great Exhibition in London. The invention of vulcanised rubber led to the development of spherical footballs, popularized in the US by Charles Goodyear in 1855. The iconic ball design with hexagons and pentagons emerged in the 1960s and was first used in the World Cup in 1970. Early forms of football involved passing, with the earliest recorded reference dating back to 1633 by David Wedderburn. However, it is unclear whether this referred to forward or backward passes between teammates or opposing teams. The modern game evolved from Lancashire in 1839 and rugby football in 1862. Sheffield FC played a combination game as early as 1865. The Royal Engineers AFC pioneered the passing combination game in 1869/70, with their players working well together, backing up each other, and benefiting from cooperation. By 1870, they were passing the ball regularly, with Lieut. Creswell making a notable pass before time was called. The team became renowned for playing beautifully together by early 1872. In March 1872, Derby school demonstrated a double pass against Nottingham Forest, marking one of the earliest recorded instances of short passes in football. who was kicking it well in front of the goal then passed it to the captain who quickly sent it between the Nottingham posts. The first team to master this modern formation was Cambridge University AFC; they also introduced the 2–3–5 "pyramid" formation. Main articles: Football, History of Rugby Union The Last Scrimmage by Edwin Buckman, depicting a rugby scrum in 1871 Rugby football started around 1845 at Rugby School in England although forms of football with a carried ball date back to medieval times. In Britain there were already 49 clubs playing variations of the game by 1870 and rugby was also played in Ireland, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. However it wasn't until 1871 that 21 London clubs came together to form the Rugby Football Union (RFU) with official rules adopted in June These rules allowed passing but still included tries drop-goals and penalty conversions as main ways of competing. Regardless of any football type the first international England vs Scotland match took place at Raeburn Place on March 27 1871. Rugby split into Rugby Union Rugby League American Football and Canadian Football. Tom Wills played rugby before founding Australian rules football. Main article: Cambridge Rules During the nineteenth century several codifications of football rules were made at University of Cambridge to allow students from different public schools to play each other. The 1863 Cambridge Rules influenced the decision of the Football Association to ban carrying the ball in its own laws. Main article: Sheffield Rules By late 1850s many football clubs had been formed throughout English-speaking world playing various codes of football. Sheffield Football Club founded by Nathaniel Creswick and William Prest in 1857 in English city of Sheffield was later recognized as oldest club playing association football. Australian Football Emerged as Distinct Code from English Rules The early days of Australian football saw the game develop independently from public school rules in England. One significant difference was the absence of an offside rule, which allowed for more freedom in gameplay. The new code introduced several innovations that later became standard in association football, including free kicks, corner kicks, handball, and throw-ins. By the 1870s, this code had gained popularity in northern and midlands England. The birth of Australian football's unique rules began with Wills' desire for "a game of our own", echoing a sentiment that would shape the code's development. The Melbourne football rules stood out due to their emphasis on marking, free kicks, tackling, and a lack of an offside rule. As these rules gained traction in Victoria, they underwent revisions in the 1860s to align with influential clubs' codes, eventually becoming known as "Victorian Rules" after a significant redraft in 1866. This version distinguished itself by incorporating cricket fields, oval balls, and specialized goal posts. The game's popularity soon spread throughout Australian colonies before experiencing a decline outside its core region following World War I. However, it has since experienced growth nationwide and internationally, culminating in the emergence of the Australian Football League as the dominant professional competition. Meanwhile, across the globe, England was witnessing efforts to unify public school games through various rule revisions during the early 1860s. One significant contribution came from J.C. Thring's "The Simplest Game" rules in 1862, later known as the Uppingham Rules. In October 1863, a revised version of the Cambridge Rules was introduced by a committee representing seven public schools. This paved the way for the first meeting of The Football Association (FA) on October 26, 1863, at the Freemasons' Tavern in London. The association's goal was to standardize rules and regulate play among its members, extending an invitation to the public schools to join; however, they declined except for one. Between October and December 1863, six meetings of the Football Association (FA) took place. Following the third meeting, a draft set of rules was published, but this was soon overshadowed by the release of Cambridge Rules in 1863. The key differences between these two sets of rules lay in their handling of running with the ball and hacking. The FA's own rules IX and X permitted players to run with the ball while also allowing opponents to hack or trip them, whereas the Cambridge Rules prohibited such behavior. At the fifth meeting, a proposal was made to remove these contentious rules, which most delegates supported. However, F. M. Campbell, Blackheath's representative, disagreed, arguing that hacking was essential to football. The motion passed, and Blackheath subsequently withdrew from the FA. By December 8, the FA had published its comprehensive set of "Laws of the Game," laying the groundwork for what would later become known as association football or soccer. Although these early rules retained some elements still seen in other sports like Australian football and rugby, they ultimately paved the way for the modern game. Division football emerged in the 1820s as a variant of association football codes. Initially, these games were chaotic mob-style affairs where large numbers of players clashed to advance the ball into a goal area, often disregarding rules and safety. The violence associated with such games led to widespread protests and ultimately their discontinuation by colleges like Yale (1860) and Harvard (1861). In response, two distinct types of football developed: "kicking" games and "running" (or "carrying") games. The Boston game, a hybrid of these styles, was introduced by the Oneida Football Club in 1862. This early form of football began to resurface on American college campuses by the late 1860s, with institutions like Yale, Princeton, Rutgers, and Brown adopting kicking games during this period. The use of English Football Association rules became more prominent as well, starting with a set implemented by Princeton in 1867. In Canada, the first recorded football match took place on November 9, 1861, at the University College, Toronto. This event marked an early step towards the development of Canadian football rules and teams, with notable figures such as (Sir) William Mulock participating. The Montreal Football Club adopted a "running game" style in 1868, inspired by rugby football. The first inter-collegiate football game was played between Rutgers University and Princeton on November 6, 1869, showcasing the evolving nature of division football through these early contests and rule adaptations. The first American intercollegiate football game was played between Harvard and McGill in 1874. This match is also considered the first rugby football game in the United States. Initially, there were two sets of rules being used - the McGill-based rugby rules and the Boston Game rules. However, over time, Harvard adopted McGill's rules and convinced other U.S. university teams to do the same. In 1876, representatives from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia met at the Massasoit Convention in Springfield, Massachusetts, where they agreed to adopt most of the Rugby Football Union rules with some variations. It was Walter Camp, a prominent figure at these conventions, who devised significant rule changes that differentiated American football from rugby. Camp's innovations included replacing the scrummage with the line of scrimmage and introducing down-and-distance rules. Despite these efforts, American football remained a violent sport, leading U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt to call for drastic changes in 1905. One key change introduced was the legal forward pass, which proved crucial in establishing the modern game. Canada developed its own version of football by adopting some American rule changes, aiming to distinguish it from rugby-oriented games. The Ontario Rugby Football Union implemented the Burnside rules in 1903, incorporating elements like the line of scrimmage and down-and-distance system. Canadian football then introduced the legal forward pass in 1929. Today, American and Canadian football remain distinct codes due to rule differences that evolved over time. Caid, traditional Irish football games, persisted in popularity during the mid-19th century, particularly in County Kerry. Two main forms emerged: field game and cross-country game. Father W. Ferris described the former as an arch-like goal-scoring activity and the latter as a full-day, boundary-crossing contest with allowed wrestling, holding, and ball carrying. By the 1870s, rugby and association football gained traction in Ireland, while traditional forms began to give way to a "rough-and-tumble" game with tripping allowed. The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), established in 1884, promoted traditional Irish sports like hurling, rejected imported games, and developed the first Gaelic football rules by Maurice Davin in 1887. Rugby Football Board (IRFB) was established in 1886, but tensions arose within the sport. Professionalism had already crept into various football codes. In England, by the 1890s, a Rugby Football Union ban on professional players led to regional conflicts, as working-class players in northern England struggled to balance work and rugby due to financial constraints. This mirrored the situation a decade earlier in soccer, but RFU authorities reacted differently, attempting to alienate working-class support. In 1895, following a dispute over player compensation, northern clubs formed the Northern Rugby Football Union (NRFU). Initially, NRFU allowed wage replacements for players. Within two years, they could be paid, but required outside employment. The demands of professional leagues necessitated rugby becoming a more spectator-friendly sport. As a result, NRFU rules diverged from RFU, including the abolition of line-outs and the introduction of "play-the-ball rucks." By 1901, Lancashire and Yorkshire competitions merged to form the Northern Rugby League (NRL), marking the first official use of the term "rugby league" in England. Over time, the RFU version of rugby became known as rugby union. The need for a single governing body for association football became apparent by the early 20th century, driven by international fixture popularity. The English Football Association had discussed setting up an international organization but made little progress. Instead, associations from seven European countries (France, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden) came together to form FIFA. The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was established on May 21, 1904, in Paris. Initially, Robert Guérin served as its first president. The French name and acronym continue to be used internationally despite being spoken by non-French speakers. Rugby league rules diverged significantly from rugby union in 1906, with a decrease in team size from 15 to 13 players. In 1907, a New Zealand professional rugby team toured Australia and Britain, receiving an enthusiastic response. As a result, professional rugby leagues were launched in Australia the following year. However, various national bodies had different rules for their respective games, leading to negotiations between them to standardize the rules for international matches. This situation persisted until 1948 when the Rugby League International Federation (RLIF) was formed due to French league efforts. The rules continued to change throughout the second half of the 20th century. In 1966, rugby league officials borrowed from American football's concept of downs. A team was allowed four tackles before losing possession, but this rule later increased to six tackles in 1971. This became known as the six-tackle rule. The five-metre offside distance between teams changed to ten metres with the introduction of full-time professionals. The laws of rugby union also underwent significant changes during the same period. Some key modifications included abolishing goals from marks, penalizing kicks directly into touch from outside the 22-metre line, and implementing new rules for determining possession following inconclusive rucks or mauls. In 1995, rugby union transitioned to an "open" game, allowing professional players. Although there is no longer a dispute between the two codes, officials occasionally discuss reunification. The cultures and meanings surrounding the term "football" have developed distinct differences across various regions. This divergence has led to ongoing debates about the usage of this term, primarily due to its varied applications within English-speaking countries. In most cases, the term "football" refers to the dominant code within a specific region, which is typically association football globally. The United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada all have their unique understanding of the word "football," with one code being referred to solely as such while others require additional clarification. New Zealand's historical reference to rugby union has recently shifted towards using the term unqualifiedly for association football. Australia uses either Australian rules football or rugby league, depending on local popularity. In francophone Quebec, Canadian football is more popular and known simply as "le football," while American football is referred to as "le football américain" and association football as "le soccer." Of the 45 FIFA affiliates where English is an official language, most currently use the term "Football" in their official names. However, some have recently shifted towards using "Soccer," including Australia's governing body renaming itself in 2005 to align with the international game. The various codes of football are among the most popular team sports globally, with over 250 million people playing association football worldwide. American football is the most popular sport in the United States, with a massive television audience worldwide. The National Football League (NFL) boasts the highest average attendance and revenue among professional sports leagues globally. In Australia, Australian Rules football has the highest spectator attendance, while Gaelic football is the most popular in Ireland. Rugby union dominates in New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji, with American football also gaining popularity in the United States. The various forms of football have evolved over time, with different rules and variations emerging across the globe. Rugby and its variations have evolved over time. The codes include rugby union (established in 1871), Canadian football (introduced in 1861), American football (developed in 1869), rugby league (created in 1895), rugby sevens (started in 1883), flag football, arena football, futsal, and various forms of indoor and beach soccer. Additionally, there are specific variations for paralympic football, street football, and Gaelic games. The governing bodies for these codes include the International Rugby Board, FIFA, IFAF, Football Canada, World Rugby, AFL, GAA, and the Commission. The physical dimensions of a rugby field vary depending on the code. The total length can range from 100-110 meters (international) to 120 yards (standard), while the width ranges from 64-73 meters (international) to 25 yards (standard). The surface material can be grass, artificial turf, sand, or other materials. The shape and design of goalposts differ between codes. Some have netted rectangular frames, while others feature carving fork-shaped structures. Footballs can take various forms, including spheres, prolate spheroids, and lemon-like shapes. The number of players on the field varies from 5 to 18. Games typically consist of multiple periods lasting from 12 minutes to an hour, with clock stoppages occurring. Kicking styles include place kicks, punts, grubbers, bombs, and dropped balls. The use of hands is restricted in some codes, while others permit forward passes. Offside rules apply in most codes, but the specifics differ between them. Scoring systems involve goals (1 point), touchdowns (6 points), field goals (3-4 points), tries (1 or 2 points), and safeties (2 points). Rugby: 2, Football: 6, Field Goal: 3, Conversion: 2, Safety: 2, Try: 5, Penalty: 3, Drop Kick: 4, Goal: 6 Championships: * World nation championship: Yes (only Australia vs Ireland) * Olympic: No * Year: 2028 * Not held in: 1900, 1908, 1920, 1924 (since 2016) Variants: * Indoor soccer: Yes * Professional leagues: Yes * Main article: Variants of association football Description: * Prohibition on using hands by all players except the goalkeeper * Variants include: + Five-a-side football + Futsal + Minivoetbal + Papi fut + Indoor soccer + Masters Football + Paralympic football (modified for athletes with disabilities) + Beach soccer, beach football or sand soccer + Street football + Rush goalie + Crab football + Swamp soccer + Jorkyball Walking Rushball Rugby Football Variants Rugby is a contact team sport that shares rules with hockey bandy and association football, but allows handball. The most common rules feature carrying the ball into goal area or kicking above goalposts. There are numerous types of rugby. Some examples include: - Rugby - Mini Rugby - Rugby Sevens - Rugby Tens - Rugby League - Also known as "League" in Australia and New Zealand, commonly called "Football" or "Footy". - Touch - Non-contact Rugby league sevens - Beach Rugby - Touch rugby - Tag Rugby - American Football - Nine-man football - Eight-man football - Six-man football - Street football/backyard football - Flag football - Canadian football - Indoor football - Wheelchair football Comparing different forms of football, we find commonalities between American football, rugby union, and Australian rules football. These codes share the absence of an offside rule, prohibition of continuous ball carrying, and traditions like handpassing by punching or tapping the ball. Variations include Auskick for young children, Metro footy for gridiron fields, and informal kick-to-kick games. Other versions include 9-a-side footy with reduced playing area, Rec footy with non-contact tackles, Touch Aussie Rules without tackling, Samoa rules adapted to local conditions, and Masters Australian football for older players. Women's Australian rules football is played with a smaller ball and reduced contact. Gaelic football is popular in Ireland, while International rules football is used for representative matches. See also: Comparison of Australian rules football and Gaelic football Football lelo burti is Georgian traditional football game, played on Epiphany in Haxey, Lincolnshire, or during Shrove Tuesday games in Alnwick, Northumberland. Ice hockey and basketball were preferred over rugby when it comes to Sepak takraw, a sport with deep roots in history. While similar to other team sports like football and volleyball, sepak takraw stands alone due to its unique heritage. Some people refer to football played on a table as "Button football" or "Futebol de Mesa". Other variants include Fantasy football, FIFA Video Games Series, Lego Football, Mario Strikers, Penny football, Pro Evolution Soccer, and Subbuteo. The sport is also known as foosball, babyfoot, bar football, or gettone. The history of sports from 1601 to 1725 includes football. The term "football field" refers to a unit of length used in the sport. There are several types of football and players who have switched from one code to another. It is disputed as to whether Mr Lindon invented the inflatable bladder for both association and rugby footballs, but it is known that he created the ball in 1862 or 1870 depending on the source. The first game of American football was played on November 6th, 1869 between Rutgers and Princeton universities. However, this was based on rules from association football at the time. In the late 1870s colleges switched to rugby rules for their games. The Rugby Football Union was formed in 1871 with its own set of rules. Burnside rules were introduced to Ontario in 1903 which changed Canadian football into gridiron style. Football has a complex and debated history with various rules and influences emerging over time. The origins of football can be traced back to ancient civilizations. In ancient Greece, a game called episkuros or harpaston was played, which had elements similar to modern-day football. This game migrated to Rome as harpastum by the 2nd century BC. In medieval times, football-like games were played in Europe and Asia, such as Cuju in China and Faininda in ancient Greece. These early forms of football were often rough and violent, with minimal rules or equipment. The modern version of football emerged in Britain during the Middle Ages, and the first official rules were established in 1863 by the Football Association. Over time, the game spread globally, and today it is one of the most popular sports worldwide. A collection of historical sources regarding the origins and evolution of football, spanning from ancient civilizations to modern times. Sources include: * "The World" by Courier Dover Publications (2002) * William Smith's "Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities" (1857) * A 2013 article on FIFA.com detailing a Greek derby * Richard Hakluyt's "Voyages in Search of The North-West Passage" (2003) * Proceedings from the Uluslararası Türk Kültürü Kongresi (2009) * Excerpts from "Historia Brittonum" at the Medieval Sourcebook * Julius Ruff's "Violence in Early Modern Europe 1500–1800" (2001) * Jean-Jules Jusserand's "Le sport et les jeux d'exercice dans l'ancienne France" (1901) * Eric Dunning's "Sport Matters: Sociological Studies of Sport, Violence and Civilisation" (1999) * William Baker's "Sports in the Western World" (1988) * Stephen Alsford's account of FitzStephen's Description of London * Francis Peabody Magoun's study on football in medieval England and Middle-English literature (1929) * Articles from The American Historical Review, Carlow-nationalist.ie, and various other sources. in number eight shirt? ^ Anniina Jokinen, Sir Philip Sidney. "A Dialogue Between Two Shepherds" Archived 29 September 2006 at the Wayback Machine (Luminarium.org, July 2006) ^ Richard, Carew. "EBook of The Survey of Cornwall". Project Gutenberg. Archived from the original on 29 September 2007. Retrieved 3 October 2007. ^ "Everything you need to know about Calcio Storico, Italy's most violent tradition". The Local Italy. 22 June 2017. Archived from the original on 31 August 2021. Retrieved 7 November 2019. ^ Magee, Jonathan; Caudwell, Jayne; Liston, Kate; Scraton, Sheila, eds. (2007). Women, Football and Europe: Histories, Equity and Experience. International Football Institute Series. Vol. 1. Meyer & Meyer Sport. ISBN 978-1-84126-225-3. Archived from the original on 27 February 2023. Retrieved 23 July 2018. ^ a b c d e f "No Christian End!" (PDF). The Journey to Camp: The Origins of American Football to 1889. Professional Football Researchers Association. Archived from the original (PDF) on 11 June 2014. 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Archived from the original on 17 May 2021. Retrieved 7 November 2019. ^ Craig Emmerson, Analyse the role of the public schools in the development of sport in the nineteenth Archives of British Football note that academia has preserved historical information regarding football. The concept of offside is discussed in Julian Carosi's 2006 paper, "The History of Offside". A description from William Hone, writing in 1825 or 1826, highlights early ball-handling techniques in Scotland, stating: |The game was this: he who at any time got the ball into his hands, run [sic] with it till overtaken by one of the opposite part; and then, if he could shake himself loose from those on the opposite side who seized him, he run on; if not, he threw the ball from him, unless it was wrested from him by the other party, but no person was allowed to kick it. This information is referenced in several historical publications, including Football: The First Hundred Years, and Bell's Life. The origins of football were influenced by Scotland, where the sport was known as "Ba'". The earliest recorded game took place in 1839 at a Scottish school. A similar version of the game was played in England, with evidence dating back to 1862 and 1865. By the late 19th century, the rules of football had evolved, with the formation of the Football Association in England in 1863. The modern game of football emerged from various forms of kickball and mob football played in Britain during the mid-19th century. The first official rules were published in England in 1857. The sport gained popularity in Scotland and spread to other parts of Europe, with the establishment of national associations and leagues. * Rugby Football History * englandrugby.com * MCG website * Lynedoch Publications The origins of American football can be traced back to 1876 when Walter Camp introduced key innovations that shaped the modern game. According to Tom Bennett, author of "The Pro Style: The Complete Guide to Understanding National Football League Strategy," this period marked a significant turning point in the sport's history. Camp and His Followers: American Football 1876–1889 provides valuable insights into the early days of football. The document highlights the gradual development of rules and regulations that would eventually define the game. Additionally, John Watterson's article "Tiny Maxwell and the Crisis of 1905: The Making of a Gridiron Myth" offers an in-depth analysis of how myths surrounding the sport were created. The Grey Cup, first played in 1909, is another significant milestone in the history of Canadian football. Other notable events include the formation of FIFA and the Rugby Football Union, which both had profound impacts on global sports. It's worth noting that different regions have varying terms for the sport. In Australia, it's known as "football," while in Canada, it's referred to as Canadian football. Similarly, in New Zealand, the local name for the game is also used. The origins of the sport date back to September 22, 2009. Interestingly, while the global version is called football, we're part of that international game, so it's logical that the sport in New Zealand should also be referred to as football. The popularity of the sport has grown significantly over time, with approximately 250 million players worldwide. Football is currently the most widely played and watched sport globally, generating an industry worth over $400 billion annually. Eighty percent of this revenue comes from Europe, although its popularity is increasing in the United States. In fact, the number of soccer players worldwide has increased substantially since the early 1980s. At both high school and college levels in the US, football is now a major sport. Moreover, it's been estimated that over 22 million people play soccer globally. The sport's massive popularity is evident from its broadcasting reach; for instance, Super Bowl LII saw huge viewership numbers. Additionally, professional sports leagues like the NFL generate significant revenue through various means. A collection of various sports-related articles and statistics was compiled over several years. The first article, published on January 30, 2013, discusses Lionel Messi's leaked Barcelona contract being the biggest in sports history. Another article from May 16, 2023, lists the world's highest-paid athletes for 2020. The making of Patrick Mahomes, the highest-paid man in sports history, is also discussed in an article published on August 19, 2020. Statistics on sports attendance in Australia were released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in December 1999 and January 2007. Studies on the social significance of sport were conducted by The Economic and Social Research Institute. In Ireland, Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and soccer dominate the sporting arena, while globally the Super Bowl was the most watched sporting event of 2005. Articles also highlight New Zealand's success in rugby and the fastest-growing sport in the U.S., which is also one of the oldest. Changes to high school rugby and its rising popularity are discussed in various articles published between 2012 and 2020. They don't seem to have much info about Nine-a-side football's early history. However, it seems to be a sport based on Aussie Rules that's being played in some informal settings by local clubs. This version of the game has nine players per team and is usually played on half-sized fields or shared with other sports like rugby or soccer. It's worth noting that Nine-a-side isn't yet considered an official sport, unlike its Aussie Rules counterpart. Sources: A 2006 article "Breaking The Codes" by Sean Fagan, as well as a 1994 book titled "The Code War" by Graham Williams, seem to have more information on the topic. However, it's clear that there's a lack of comprehensive data about Nine-a-side football's history and development. Additional references include an edited collection called "Football History: International Perspectives" from 2006, which covers various aspects of the sport. Other notable publications like "The Meaning of Sports" by Michael Mandelbaum (2004) and "The Code War" by Graham Williams (1994) provide broader insights into sports history but might not specifically touch on Nine-a-side football. Lastly, a September 2020 article "U.S Rugby Scholarships – U.S Sports Scholarships" offers some context, albeit not directly related to the sport itself. Australian Rules football has evolved into a 9-a-side variation, which is more open and running compared to traditional Australian Rules. The rules for this version are as follows: each team can have up to nine players, with three designated as forwards, centres, and backs. After a goal is scored, the players must return to their respective third of the pitch but can roam freely after the ball-up. Goals and behinds can only be scored from within the forward zone. The ball can only be bounced once before it's disposed of. If the ball goes out of play, the nearest opponent must kick it back into play. All other rules remain unchanged. The 9-a-side version of Australian Rules has gained popularity outside Australia due to its reduced resource requirements. The game now uses smaller pitches and fewer players, making it more accessible to people in different countries. Official tournaments under these rules include the EU Cup, European leagues, and various national leagues such as the Australian Rules Football League of Ireland. Other versions of the game include Touch Aussie Rules, a non-contact version played in the UK, and Metro Footy, which is played on gridiron fields in the United States. Association football, commonly referred to as football or soccer, is a team sport played between two teams of eleven players each on a rectangular pitch. The objective is to score more goals than the opposing team by propelling a ball with one's feet into a goal defended by the other team. Traditionally, matches consist of two 45-minute halves, for a total match time of ninety minutes. - **Competitions:** Team sport played between two teams of eleven players each. - **Equipment:** Football (or soccer ball), football boots, shin pads, kits, and gloves (for goalkeepers). - **Venue:** Football pitch (also known as football field, football ground, soccer field, soccer pitch or "pitch"). - **Glossary:** Glossary of association football. - **Presence:** Country or region: Worldwide. Olympic: Men's since the 1900 Olympics and women's since the 1996 Olympics. Paralympic: 5-a-side since 2004 and 7-a-side from 1984 to 2016. Association

is a prominent team sport for women in the UK, with major competitions being launched at both national and international levels. The FIFA Women's World Cup was inaugurated in 1991, featuring 12 teams from six confederations. The tournament has expanded over the years, with 24 national teams participating by 2019, attracting an audience of 1.12 billion viewers. Women's football has achieved a record-breaking milestone in the World Cup.[90] As part of the Olympic Games since 1996, women's football has seen significant growth and success.[91] North America stands out as the dominant region, with the United States claiming multiple FIFA Women's World Cups and Olympic titles. Europe and Asia follow closely behind in terms of international achievements,[92][93] while South America is showing signs of improvement.[94] Most matches in professional football leagues have relatively few goals scored, averaging around 2.85 goals per match in the English Premier League's 2022-23 season. The Laws of the Game outline the rules for each position on the field, aside from specifying goalkeeper duties. Positions have evolved over time into three main categories: strikers (forwards) who score goals; defenders preventing opponents from scoring; and midfielders dispossessing the opposition to pass to forwards. These outfield players can be further divided based on where they spend most of their time on the field, such as central defenders or left/right midfielders. The number of players in each position influences the team's style of play, with more forwards and fewer defenders creating a more aggressive game and vice versa. While players typically stick to one position, there are few restrictions on movement, allowing for changes at any time. The arrangement of outfield players is known as a formation, usually decided by the team manager. The official Laws of the Game consist of 17 laws, applying to all levels of football across sexes but with permitted modifications for different groups like juniors and those with physical disabilities. These laws are designed to be flexible, allowing for variations in their application depending on the game's nature. Rules and regulations play a significant role in governing the sport of association football within various contexts. The United States' Major League Soccer, for instance, employed distinct rules during the 1990s, while the National Federation of State High School Associations and NCAA follow rulesets that are comparable but different from IFAB Laws. In a standard match, each team consists of up to eleven players, with one being the goalkeeper, who is allowed to handle the ball within their own penalty area. The referee oversees the game, enforcing competition-specific rules regarding player numbers and equipment. Players are required to wear basic kit consisting of a shirt, shorts, socks, footwear, and shin guards. Male players are advised to use protective gear such as an athletic supporter and protective cup. Headgear is not compulsory but may be worn for added protection. Players must avoid wearing items that could endanger themselves or others, like jewelry. During the game, teams can make substitutions, with most competitive games permitting five replacements in 90 minutes plus one additional substitution if the game extends into extra-time. Substitutions are typically made to address player injuries, tiredness, ineffectiveness, or tactical needs. Once substituted out of a match, a player cannot return to play further. IFAB recommends that matches should not continue under certain conditions. Fewer than seven players are present on each team. The governing body decides whether to award points for abandoned games. A match is overseen by a referee, who has the authority to enforce the game's laws and make final decisions. Two assistant referees assist the main official, with a fourth official also present in high-level matches to provide support or replace another official if needed. Technology is used to determine whether a goal has been scored, reducing controversy. Video assistant referees (VARs) are also employed to review clear mistakes through video replays. The four types of calls that can be reviewed include mistaken identity in awarding cards, goals and potential violations during buildup, direct red card decisions, and penalty decisions. A standard ball is spherical, with a circumference between 27 and 28 inches (68-70 cm), weighing around 14 to 16 ounces (410-450 grams) and having pressure between 8.5 and 15.6 pounds per square inch (0.6-1.1 atmospheres) at sea level. Modern balls are synthetic, replacing the traditional leather panels. The standard pitch dimensions were originally measured in imperial units, but now express approximate metric equivalents. The length of an international adult match field is between 110 and 120 yards (100-110 meters), with a width ranging from 70 to 80 yards (64-75 meters). Non-international matches may have fields measuring between 100 and 130 yards (90-120 meters) in length. The standard football pitch dimensions, as initially approved by IFAB in 2008, are between 105m and 115yds long, with an allowed width of 50-100yards. However, this size was never implemented due to various reasons. In football, the fourth official signals the additional stoppage time that will be added to the game. This can include extra minutes at the end of each half, as well as any further interruptions during the match. The length of these additional minutes is predetermined by the officials and communicated to both teams. The introduction of added time was a response to an incident in 1891, where a goalkeeper deliberately kicked the ball out of play, resulting in a game being prematurely ended. To prevent such incidents from happening again, the law states that any penalty kick must be completed before the game can end, ensuring that the match reaches its conclusion. In cases where the score is tied at the end of regular time, the game may go into extra time, which consists of two 15-minute periods. If the score remains tied after this, a penalty shoot-out may be used to determine the winner. In competitions such as knockout tournaments, the team that scores more goals in the penalty shootout progresses to the next round. In two-legged matches, the aggregate score from both games determines which team advances. If the scores are level, the away goals rule is applied, where the team with the most goals scored while playing away wins. In cases where the result remains tied after this, extra time and potentially a penalty shoot-out may be required to determine the winner. Ball is either in play or out of play during a game. From the start to finish of each period, ball remains in play unless it goes out of bounds or the referee stops play. When ball leaves field, play is restarted using one of eight restart methods depending on how it went out. These include: Kick-off: after opponent scores goal or at beginning of period Throw-in: when ball crosses touchline; awarded to opposing team that last touched ball Goal kick: when ball crosses goal line without score and was last touched by attacking player; awarded to defending team Corner kick: when ball crosses goal line without score and was last touched by defending player; awarded to attacking team Indirect free kick: after non-penal foul, technical infringement, or caution/dismiss opponent Direct free kick: after penal foul; direct goal possible from this kick Penalty kick: after foul within opponent's penalty area but not punishable by direct free kick; direct goal possible from this kick Dropped-ball: when referee stops play for injury, interference, or defective ball Foul is committed when player breaks Laws of Game while ball in play. Offences include handling ball deliberately, tripping opponent, or pushing opponent. Other infractions can lead to indirect free kicks. Referees can punish misconduct by issuing yellow or red cards, booking the offending player's name in their notebook. A second yellow card results in a dismissal. Dismissed players cannot be substituted and must leave the game. Misconduct can occur at any time, with the referee having broad discretion to define what constitutes unsporting behaviour. Referees can issue yellow or red cards to players, substitutes, managers, and support staff. They may choose not to stop play if doing so benefits the opposing team, allowing them to "play an advantage". If the anticipated advantage doesn't materialise within a few seconds, the referee can call back play and penalise the original offence. The referee's decisions are final on-pitch, and scores cannot be altered after the game, even if later evidence shows mistakes were made. Football associations also enforce good conduct off-pitch, addressing issues like press comments, financial management, doping, age fraud, and match fixing. Most competitions impose mandatory suspensions for players sent off during a game. Severe incidents may warrant heavier sanctions than normal red card punishments. Some associations allow clubs to appeal player suspensions if they feel they were unfairly incurred on-field. The referee was too harsh on some players. If they break a rule, they can get fined or lose points. Some teams even get kicked out of the league if they don't pay their debts. For example, English football clubs that go bankrupt have 12 points taken away from them. If one team refuses to play another, it's like a technical loss for them. On the other hand, teams that were supposed to play but didn't are considered winners. FIFA is the main organization that oversees global football competitions, including futsal and beach soccer. Their headquarters are in Zürich, Switzerland. There are six major regions of football in the world: Asia, Africa, Europe, North/Central America & Caribbean, Oceania, and South America. Each region has its own governing body. Every country has its own national association that oversees football within their borders. There are 211 countries associated with both FIFA and their respective regional confederations. Some national associations only participate in regional competitions but not global ones. FIFA is responsible for organizing big international events, but they don't make all the rules. The IFAB sets the Laws of the Game with input from UK football associations and FIFA. Football competitions are mainly divided into two categories: national teams versus clubs from different countries. International football often refers to national team games, but not always. Club competitions are considered international if the clubs' home country is involved, not necessarily the players' nationalities. The World Cup, organized by FIFA, is the most prestigious and widely watched sporting event. It takes place every four years, with 32 teams competing in a month-long tournament. The finals involve over 200 national teams that compete for a spot in the tournament through qualifying rounds. The World Cup has been broadcast to an estimated 5 billion people worldwide, making it the most followed sporting event globally. The current champions are Argentina, who won their third title at the 2022 tournament in Qatar. The Soviet Bloc countries of Eastern Europe were major Olympic medal winners from 1948 to 1980, accounting for 23 out of 27 medals during that period. Only Sweden, Denmark, and Japan managed to break their dominance, with the rest of the world struggling to keep up. The introduction of professional players in 1984 changed the game, allowing top-level talent to compete. Since then, rules have relaxed, with male competitors now allowed under the age of 23, except for three over-23s per squad since 1996. Women's football gained its own Olympic tournament in 1996, featuring full national teams without age restrictions. The most significant international competitions outside the World Cup are the continental championships, which include the European Championship, Copa América, Africa Cup of Nations, and others. These events bring together national teams from each continent, with guest teams sometimes invited to compete. The FIFA Confederations Cup, which featured the winners of these tournaments and the current and next World Cup champions, was discontinued in 2017. Its place has been taken by an expanded Club World Cup. The UEFA Nations League and CONCACAF Nations League were introduced to replace international friendlies during the two-year cycle between major tournaments. In club football, the continental championships are the most prestigious events, contested between national champions from each region, such as the Champions League in Europe and Copa Libertadores in South America. The FIFA Intercontinental Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup are annual and four-yearly events held by the governing body FIFA. The Spanish La Liga match between Real Madrid and Barcelona, known as El Clásico, is one of the most famous fixtures in sports. Each country has its own league system with several divisions, where teams earn points based on their results. Teams compete against each other in a round-robin tournament, with the top team declared the champion at the end of the season. The top few teams can be promoted to a higher division, while those finishing at the bottom are relegated to a lower division. Some countries have two separate championships, such as Apertura and Clausura, while others have cup competitions like domestic cups that allow all eligible teams to participate. However, not all players in top divisions receive high salaries, with many part-time professionals or amateurs. The top European leagues, including the Premier League, Bundesliga, La Liga, Serie A, and Ligue 1, attract the world's best players, generating massive revenue from television contracts, matchday tickets, and sponsorships. Football clubs are a type of sports organization that play association football, also known as soccer. The history of football is long and varied, with different types of games and leagues emerging over time. In recent years, the number of competing teams has fluctuated, but the sport remains popular globally. The term "football" has sparked debate, with some arguing that it's time to change its usage. References: a b ^"Fury as FIFA finds a field of dreams in China" Bangkok Post, 5 June 2014. ^ Nigel Wilson, Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece, Routledge, 2005. ^ Nigel M. Kennell, The Gymnasium of Virtue: Education and Culture in Ancient Sparta Studies in the History of Greece and Rome), The University of North Carolina Press, 1995. ^ Steve Craig, Sports and Games of the Ancients: (Sports and Games Through History), Greenwood, 2002. ^ Don Nardo, Greek and Roman Sport, Greenhaven Press, 1999. ^ Sally E. D. Wilkins, Sports and games of medieval cultures, Greenwood, 2002. "Rugby Football History" Rugby Football History. "History of Football – Britain, the home of Football" FIFA. Harvey, Adrian (2005). Football, the first hundred years. London: Routledge. Winner, David (28 March 2005). "The hands-off approach to a man's game". The Times. London. "The history of the FA" The Football Association. "British Library displays The Football Association's 1863 Minute Book" British Library. "The Football Association" Bell's Life in London. Young, Percy M. (1964). Football in Sheffield. S. Paul. "The History of the Football League" The Football League. Parrish, Charles; Nauright, John (2014). "Soccer around the world: a cultural guide to the world's favorite sport". Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. "IFAB" FIFA. Retrieved: 30 October 2020, 19 June 2014, 20 November 2006, 7 October 2007, 9 October 2007, 18 September 2023. The history of football's International Board dates back to the early 20th century. The IFAB was established to standardize rules across different countries. FIFA, the governing body for international football, plays a key role in shaping the game. According to FIFA, there are approximately 250 million footballers worldwide. In terms of viewership, the FIFA World Cup has reached an unprecedented level, with 3.2 billion people watching the tournament. The women's version also gained attention, with millions of viewers tuning in. The IFAB works closely with various regional associations to ensure uniformity across different continents. The history of women's football is a long and complex one, spanning over a century. The earliest recorded international match between two female teams took place in 1895 in England. Women's involvement with soccer was part of the broader emancipation process for women during the early 20th century. In 1921, the FA banned women from participating in football due to concerns about their appearance and behavior on the field. Despite this setback, women's football continued to grow in popularity throughout the 20th century. The first official women's league was established in Scotland in 1945, and the Women's World Cup was first held in 1991. Today, women's football is recognized as a legitimate sport with its own set of rules and regulations. The game has become increasingly popular around the world, with more countries investing in women's teams and competitions. The development of women's football has been marked by significant milestones, including the establishment of the Women's Premier League in England and the creation of the National Women's Soccer League in the United States. On August 10, 2014, a significant article was published regarding women's football history. The piece drew attention to several key events and milestones in the sport's development. Archival records from 2010 revealed that Shelley Alexander wrote an article titled "Trail-blazers who pioneered women's football" for BBC Sport on June 3, 2005. Additionally, Richard Witzig published a chapter on women's football in his book, The Global Art of Soccer, released in 2006. In June 2022, Suzanne Wrack from The Guardian wrote an article discussing the FA's ban on women's football in 1921 and its attempts to justify it. This was followed by Gail Newsham's publication of In a League of Their Own: The Dick, Kerr Ladies 1917–1965. Recent events include BBC News' feature on women footballers being held back by prejudice, as well as articles discussing the growth of women's football in Italy and the Middle East and North Africa. The FIFA Women's World Cup also broke viewership records, with Alana Glass reporting this achievement for Forbes in 2019. Furthermore, Global Sport Matters highlighted the increasing popularity of women's football in the Middle East and North Africa, while The Guardian reported record-breaking ticket sales for the 2023 Women's World Cup. Calls for gender equity continued to grow as the tournament approached, with an article from Al Jazeera emphasizing this need on April 11, 2023. Overall, these articles collectively provide a comprehensive account of women's football history and its growth in recent years. The Olympic Games and Paralympics have a rich history of bringing together nations to compete in various sports. In recent years, FIFA Women's World Cup has also become a prominent international sporting event. According to records, some countries have excelled in winning the most Olympic gold medals in football. However, there is still room for improvement in women's soccer in South America. The circumference of a football and rules governing its play are well-defined by FIFA. The Laws of the Game outline specific regulations, including offside and handball laws. Moreover, the positions guide explains the roles of each player on the team. Formations and tactics also play a crucial role in the game. Eds. published Science and Soccer in 2005, a second edition that included information on page 235. The book's ISBN is 978-0-415-26231-6. A backup of the original was saved on February 12, 2022, but it was accessed on December 3, 2020. Maurer wrote about U.S. soccer and its ten changes in a New York Times article archived from October 11, 2022, which was accessed on November 8, 2021. Health Advice for Boys was found on Strikingeagles.tripod.com, saved as of September 27, 2013, but accessed on the same date. A Soccer Position Paper in PDF format was also found and downloaded from September 24, 2013. Marca reported Football's biggest headache on March 12, 2017, which was archived on May 17, 2018, and accessed on the same day. Laws of the game (Law 4–Players' Equipment) were published by FIFA but saved as of September 13, 2007, and accessed on September 24, 2007. Top-level competitions allowed five substitutions starting from the 2022/23 season according to a report by 90min.com, which was archived on January 13, 2023, but accessed on that date. Laws of the game (Law 3–Substitution procedure) were published and saved by FIFA as of September 11, 2007, but accessed on September 24, 2007. The Number of Players was part of Law 3 in a PDF format from FIFA's Laws of the Game 2010/2011 edition, which was archived as of July 4, 2010, and accessed on March 4, 2011. Laws of the game (Law 5 – The referee) were published by FIFA and saved as of September 13, 2007, but accessed on September 24, 2007. Video Assistant Referees (VARs) Experiment was a protocol summary from the International Football Association Board that was archived in PDF format as of April 26, 2017, and accessed on the same date. Laws of the Game 2013/2014 were published by FIFA but saved in PDF format on July 17, 2013. A report about Football manufacturing, part of FIFA's quality program, was found, archived on September 4, 2016, and accessed on July 3, 2014. Summers wrote for the BBC News about metric measurement in soccer on September 2, 2004, which was archived as of October 10, 2007, but accessed on October 7, 2007. FIFA put goal-line technology on hold on March 8, 2008, which was archived on March 22, 2019, and accessed on June 19, 2010. Amendments to the Laws of the Game were made by FIFA in 2008, with a PDF version saved as of April 30, 2011, but accessed on March 4, 2011. The field of play was described under Law 1.1 according to FIFA's laws, which were archived from September 13, 2007, and accessed on the same date. The duration of a football match, as outlined in the Laws of the Game, is governed by several rules. According to Law 7.2, the duration of the match includes stoppage time. However, studies have shown that stoppage time can be wildly inaccurate. According to research by FiveThirtyEight, World Cup stoppage time was found to be inaccurate in their study "We Timed Every Game". The Sunday Times Illustrated History of Football also mentions in 1996 p.11 that stoppage time is a subject of debate among football fans and experts alike. The length of the match can vary depending on the competition and stage. In some cases, such as in the FA Cup prior to the semi-finals, additional stoppage time may be added. On the other hand, Law 5: The Referee states that advantage refers to a signal given by the referee to award an advantage to the attacking team. This can be found on page 66 of the Laws of the Game 2010/2011 PDF. Additionally, Law 13 – Free Kicks and Law 14 – The Penalty Kick also outline specific rules for these types of kicks, which must be followed during a match. Law 15 – The Throw-in, Law 16 – The Goal Kick, and Law 17 – The Corner Kick are also subject to specific rules in the Laws of the Game. The laws of football, as outlined by FIFA in their Laws of the Game document, dictate that a referee has significant power and authority on the field. This is stated in Law 5: The Referee. For example, in FA competitions, players who receive certain disciplinary penalties may be suspended for a period of time. FIFA also imposes its own rules and regulations on member associations, including those related to player suspensions. The Caribbean Football Union has been criticized for harbouring non-FIFA members. In contrast, the FIFA World Cup 2022 featured teams from Brazil, Germany, and England among others. The tournament itself is a significant event, with an estimated global audience of 5 billion people in 2022. According to FIFA President Gianni Infantino, this made it one of the most-watched events in history. Pelé, a legendary footballer, set high standards for greatness on the field, and his legacy continues to be felt. In other news, Argentina won the World Cup final in 2022 through a penalty shootout, while Spain earned its first Women's World Cup title by defeating England in 2023. The women's tournament was expanded to include 32 teams that year, but some have questioned whether this led to a decrease in overall quality. Historically, football has been featured at the Olympic Games since 1936, with men's and women's competitions taking place over the years. from the original on 6 July 2014. The same source was accessed on 4 March 2011. ^ "Football: Five superstars who have won gold in the Olympics" is a title from olympics.com, which was archived from the original on 6 June 2023 and retrieved on 18 September 2023. ^ Borg, Simon wrote an article titled "Olympic soccer rules, explained: How men's and women's football tournaments work in Tokyo" for The Sporting News on August 7, 2021, which was archived from the original on 2 September 2023 and retrieved on 1 September 2023. ^ Molinaro, John F. also wrote an article titled "Continental champions collide at the Confederations Cup" for CBC Sports on May 22, 2009, which was archived from the original on 2 September 2023 and retrieved on 1 September 2023. ^ a b This source is cited twice. It's from Molinaro, John F. Williams, Aidan wrote an article titled "Japan, Qatar and the history of guest teams at the Copa América" for The Guardian on June 12, 2019, which was archived from the original on 2 September 2023 and retrieved on 1 September 2023. ^ "2021 FIFA Club World Cup to remain a seven-team tournament" is a title from The Athletic, which was archived from the original on 2 September 2023 and retrieved on 1 September 2023. ^ Straus, Brian wrote an article titled "How CONCACAF League of Nations Alters Competitive Landscape for USA, Region" for Sports Illustrated on November 17, 2017, which was archived from the original on 1 September 2023 and retrieved on 31 August 2023. ^ "Organising Committee strengthens FIFA Club World Cup format" is a title from FIFA, which was archived from the original on 31 May 2008 and retrieved on 7 October 2007. ^ Philip, Tom wrote an article titled "What the Hell is El Clásico?" for GQ on November 19, 2015, which was archived from the original on 10 October 2023 and retrieved on 8 September 2023. ^ Fort, Rodney wrote an article titled "European and North American Sports Differences(?)". This source is not retrievable online but was published in the Scottish Journal of Political Economy in 2000. ^ "Estudiantes win Argentina Apertura title" is a title from Fox Sports associated with The Associated Press, which was archived from the original on 23 June 2013 and retrieved on 4 March 2011. In some Latin American countries, like Argentina, two season titles are given each year: the Apertura and Clausura. ^ Rueter, Jeff wrote an article titled "What is the U.S. Open Cup? Soccer tournament history, how to watch and Messi's path to another trophy" for The Athletic on August 22, 2023, which was archived from the original on 24 August 2023 and retrieved on 8 September 2023. ^ Hughes, Ian wrote an article titled "Premier League conquering Europe" for BBC Sport on March 31, 2008, which was archived from the original on 18 November 2018 and retrieved on 27 May 2008. ^ Taylor, Louise wrote an article titled "Leading clubs losing out as players and agents" for The Times on May 29, 2008, but this source is not available online. Association football, a popular sport worldwide, has generated substantial revenue for leagues such as the Premier League. According to recent data, the Premier League's 2021-22 season produced £5.5 billion in revenue, surpassing combined earnings of La Liga and Bundesliga. Sources: * The Guardian * The Athletic